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U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

# MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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## SODA ASH AND SODIUM SULFATE IN AUGUST 1997

Natural soda ash production in August was 896,000 metric tons, 2% lower than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were estimated at 288,000 tons, a slight decrease from that of the preceding month. Wyoming trona production in August was 1,460,000 tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda as soda ash equivalent, based on data from all three producers, was 16,800 tons in August.

Apparent consumption of soda ash for July was 596,000 tons, 12% higher than the July 1996 level of 531,000 tons. Exports and imports of soda ash in July 1997 were 362,000 tons and 9,260 tons, respectively.

The cumulative soda ash statistics through July 1997,

compared with those of the corresponding period in 1996, were as follows: production 6% higher, imports 5% higher, exports 14% higher, ending stocks 3% lower, and apparent consumption 1% higher.

**Abstracts from the 1st International Soda Ash Conference that was held in Rock Springs, WY, on June 10-12, 1997, are available on the soda ash home page on the U.S. Geological Survey's website.**

**The site is:**

**[http://minerals.er.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/commodity/soda\\_ash](http://minerals.er.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/commodity/soda_ash)**

TABLE 1  
SALIENT SODA ASH AND NATURAL SODIUM SULFATE STATISTICS 1/

Period	Soda ash (Thousand metric tons)		Natural sodium sulfate (Metric tons)	
	Production 2/	Ending stocks	Production	Ending stocks
1996:				
July	850	296	21,500	12,300
August	847	264	24,100	15,700
September	857	223	26,000	16,400
October	909	290 3/	26,400	18,500
November	859	285	24,100	14,300
December	866	271	29,500	19,500
Total (Jan.-Aug.)	6,680	XX	200,000	XX
Total	10,200	XX	306,000	XX
1997:				
January	866	326 e/	24,800	15,700
February	766	275 e/	23,800	19,500
March	912	296 e/	27,400	22,100
April	834	251 e/	27,500	15,900
May	937	282 e/	27,500	17,800
June	971	327 e/	28,400	24,400
July	912	290 e/	25,900 r/	16,800 r/
August	896	288 e/	27,300	24,000
Total	7,090	XX	213,000	XX

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production data includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors for the current year 1997 are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

3/ Because of previously unreported inventory in remote locations by one producer, ending stocks are somewhat higher than the level of prior months.

TABLE 2  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH AND SODIUM SULFATE 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Disodium carbonate		Disodium sulfate				Total	
	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)	Saltcake		Other		Quantity	Value 2/ (thousands)
			Quantity	Value 2/ (thousands)	Quantity	Value 2/ (thousands)		
1996:								
July	315	\$42,000	12,500	\$695	29	\$20	12,600	\$715
August	392	51,100	2,440	189	6,620	956	9,060	1,150
September	329	44,400	1,690	151	23	8	1,710	159
October	392	53,600	2,060	210	119	679	2,180	889
November	255	34,800	1,190	140	108	545	1,300	685
December	367	47,700	14,300	1,250	103	36	14,400	1,290
Total (Jan.-July)	2,100	277,000	54,300	4,180	2,830	798	57,100	4,980
Total	3,840	508,000	75,900	6,120	9,810	3,020	85,700	9,140
1997: 3/								
January	262	33,300	3,160	310	2,390	661	5,550	971
February	319	43,600	3,610	380	317	115	3,920	495
March	376	49,100	11,400	648	977	230	12,400	878
April	342	44,700	1,990	211	519	188	2,510	399
May	386	51,100	5,050	589	651	234	5,700	823
June	339	44,100	1,090	117	1,590	418	2,680	535
July	362	48,400	7,810	821	767	362	8,580	1,180
Total	2,390	314,000	34,100	3,080	7,210	2,210	41,300	5,280

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value at U.S. ports.

3/ August 1997 data not available at time of publication.

Source: Bureau of the Census, as adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey, using Journal of Commerce trade data and information.

TABLE 3  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, 1997 1/

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	Total quantity	% of total
Argentina	6,150	12,100	10,100	--	16,400	14,700	--	59,500	2
Australia	--	--	--	5,020	21,000	--	10,000	36,000	2
Belgium	6,000	8,270	--	--	16,600	--	10,000	40,900	2
Bolivia	--	--	--	900	--	2,700	--	3,600	--
Brazil	17	21,100	38,100	17	33,100	--	31,900	124,000	5
Canada	26,200	28,500	22,500	21,500	20,900	19,200	16,000	155,000	6
Chile	--	20,000	--	21,800	--	24,600	--	66,400	3
China	--	9,010	27,500	5,000	15,600	--	18,000	75,100	3
Colombia	9,380	--	10,900	--	10,900	11,100	10,900	53,200	2
Costa Rica	--	--	--	4,070	--	--	--	4,070	--
Croatia	12,000	--	--	11,000	--	--	--	23,000	1
Dominican Republic	--	--	1,770	--	18	--	--	1,790	--
Ecuador	--	--	4,480	--	--	5,840	--	10,300	--
El Salvador	--	--	--	--	--	999	--	999	--
France	10,000	--	22,200	--	18,200	--	--	50,400	2
Guatemala	41	2,120	--	3,010	24	760	64	6,020	--
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	79	--	79	--
Indonesia	19,100	23,500	29,400	47,900	46,900	27,300	56,900	251,000	11
Ireland	589	--	--	--	--	--	--	589	--
Israel	6,980	--	--	14,000	37	6,980	--	28,000	1
Jamaica	1,540	--	--	--	--	--	1,980	3,520	--
Japan	20,100	40,500	34,500	55,300	12,500	35,400	44,100	242,000	10
Korea, Republic of	26,500	29,900	37,500	31,700	22,100	40,000	20,300	208,000	9
Malaysia	8,100	10,300	--	14,500	16,600	15,000	21,700	86,300	4
Mexico	29,300	32,500	43,100	24,800	24,300	33,300	45,300	233,000	10
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	--
New Zealand	60	6,790	477	106	318	371	256	8,380	--
Nigeria	--	--	--	--	--	5,930	--	5,930	--
Panama	--	9	--	--	--	2,090	--	2,100	--
Peru	--	3,900	--	5,300	--	4,250	--	13,500	1
Philippines	7,150	15,200	12,500	--	10,000	13,000	8,700	66,600	3
Russia	--	--	477	--	--	--	--	477	--
Saudi Arabia	8,000	--	14,900	1,000	13,000	14,900	--	51,800	2
Singapore	--	--	--	--	5,000	--	--	5,000	--
South Africa	--	--	--	25,100	--	--	--	25,100	1
Spain	9,600	--	12,900	--	--	12,100	15,000	49,700	2
Switzerland	--	--	21	--	--	--	--	21	--
Taiwan	25,300	15,000	20,900	14,900	15,100	11,500	8,500	111,000	5
Thailand	23,400	24,500	25,500	--	50,300	25,700	24,400	174,000	7
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	2,730	--	--	--	--	2,730	--
Turkey	5,030	--	--	--	--	4,960	--	9,990	--
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	5,000	--	5,100	--	10,100	--
United Kingdom	--	--	--	15,300	53	--	192	15,500	1
Uruguay	--	--	--	--	--	1,400	--	1,400	--
Venezuela	1,990	16,100	2,980	15,200	17,400	--	17,600	71,200	3
Total	262,000	319,000	376,000	342,000	386,000	339,000	362,000	2,390,000	100

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 4  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH AND SODIUM SULFATE 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Disodium carbonate		Disodium sulfate				Total	
	Value 3/		Saltcake 2/		Other		Value 3/	
	Quantity	(thousands)	Quantity	(thousands)	Quantity	(thousands)	Quantity	(thousands)
1996:								
July	8,630	\$1,180	9,940	\$987	3,800	\$405	13,700	\$1,390
August	8,310	1,140	11,700	1,110	2,940	270	14,600	1,380
September	10,500	1,440	14,400	1,400	1,550	193	15,900	1,590
October	9,340	1,260	12,200	1,200	1,300	163	13,500	1,360
November	10,000	1,380	11,600	1,120	1,460	173	13,000	1,300
December	9,450	1,290	12,800	1,320	2,270	292	15,100	1,610
Total (Jan.-July)	59,300	8,230	84,900	7,940	19,900	1,890	105,000	9,840
Total	107,000	14,700	148,000	14,100	29,400	2,980	177,000	17,100
1997: 4/								
January	8,930	1,180	10,700	1,060	2,620	294	13,300	1,350
February	9,280	1,330	14,200	1,400	2,050	266	16,300	1,660
March	8,760	1,240	12,400	1,250	1,170	222	13,600	1,470
April	8,500	1,160	10,700	1,040	786	121	11,500	1,160
May	9,480	1,220	11,000	1,100	943	138	11,900	1,240
June	8,250	1,070	10,800	1,070	440	110	11,300	1,180
July	9,260	1,230	11,900	1,170	212	29	12,100	1,200
Total	62,500	8,440	81,800	8,080	8,230	1,180	90,000	9,260

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes Glauber's salt.

3/ Customs, insurance, and freight (c.i.f) value at U.S. ports.

4/ August 1997 data not available at time of publication.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5  
U. S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption 2/
				Increase	Decrease	
1996:						
July	850,000	8,630	315,000	12,000	--	531,000
August	847,000	8,310	392,000	--	32,000	495,000
September	857,000	10,500	329,000	--	41,000	580,000
October	909,000	9,340	392,000	67,000	--	460,000
November	859,000	10,000	255,000	--	5,000	619,000
December	866,000	9,450	367,000	--	14,000	522,000
Total (Jan.-July)	5,830,000	59,300	2,100,000	--	10,000	3,800,000
Total	10,200,000	107,000	3,840,000	--	35,000	6,470,000
1997:						
January	866,000	8,930	262,000	55,000 e/	--	557,000
February	766,000	9,280	319,000	--	51,000 e/	507,000
March	912,000	8,760	376,000	21,000 e/	--	524,000
April	834,000	8,500	342,000	--	45,000 e/	545,000
May	937,000	9,480	386,000	31,000 e/	--	529,000
June	971,000	8,250	339,000	45,000 e/	--	595,000
July	912,000	9,260	362,000	--	37,000 e/	596,000
August	896,000	NA	NA	--	2,000 e/	NA
Total (Jan.-July)	6,200,000	62,500	2,390,000	19,000 e/	--	3,850,000

e/ Estimated. NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.